

P4  
L E T T E R

To the Right Honourable the

Lord ABERGAVENNY.

ON THE

Injurious Practices in the Court Baron  
of *Abergavenny*.

Humbly inscribed to the Right Honourable

WILLIAM, Lord MANSFIELD.

*Chapman & J*  
*K.*

---

L O N D O N :

Printed in the YEAR 1775.

[ Price 1s. 6d. ]

21/6

L E T T E R S

To the Right Honourable

Lord ABERCROMBIE

OF THE

High Court of Justice in the County of Middlesex

Sheweth

46

1. 8.

That the said Lord ABERCROMBIE

146

WILLIAM LORD ABERCROMBIE



---

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

WILLIAM, Lord MANSFIELD.

MY LORD,

THIS LETTER to the noble Peer, is the effusion of an honest Indignation.—The Freedom, my LORD, I have taken, in inscribing it to your LORDSHIP, arises, from the high Estimation of those distinguished Qualities, so eminently conspicuous, in the Lord Chief Justice of the KING'S-BENCH.—For this Freedom. I crave your LORDSHIP'S Pardon.

I am, my LORD,

Your LORDSHIP'S most obliged,

and most devoted humble Servant,

*Werde, Monmouthshire,  
St. DAVID'S Day, 1775.*

JOHN CHAPMAN.

3  
5

To the Hon. Secy of the Interior

WASH DC

My Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the application of the late Mrs. J. M. Smith for a pension. The same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, my Dear Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. A. Smith

Wm. A. Smith, Secy of the Interior



---

A

L E T T E R, &c.

MY LORD,

THE only time I had the honour of seeing your Lordship, was occasioned by the gross impositions I laboured under, respecting the practices in your Lordship's Court Baron of *Abergavenny*, exercised towards me. And at the same time, I do remember, I flattered myself, that I should meet with redress, considering the nature of the oppression, and from your Lordship's seeming disposition to afford me relief.

Having however, unfortunately failed in that application I am now compelled to apply to your Lordship in this manner, for the following reasons.—First, my Lord, the very great distance of situation in life, respecting your Lordship: and myself. — Secondly, the distance of situation respecting locality.—Thirdly, having certain information of the abuse of your Lordship's ear, occasioned by the two first reasons.—And lastly, my Lord, the very disagreeable perplexity in which that abuse pour'd into your Lordship's ear, has involved me.

As far, my Lord, as respects the first and second reasons, I mean to acquaint your Lordship in this Letter.—The third and the last reason, I mean to insert in a postscript, some time hence. The occasion thereof, my Lord, is too obvious to your Lordship, to need any further explanation at this time.

That your Lordship may form a perfect judgment of this business, I will begin first with my application to one, who holds a farm in the same parish in which I reside; but who at that time was in *London*; and who is Steward; or quondam steward to your Lordship. The Letter of application, I sent to your Lordship, under a cover, addressed,

To

TO WILLIAM MORGAN, Esq; No. 15, Seymour-street,  
Portman-square.

S I R,

" YOU I address, as a neighbour, a gentleman, and a steward to the Right Hon. the Lord *Abergavenny*. A combination, I flatter myself, I shall have no occasion to depart from.—'Tis certainly, Sir, a very disagreeable sensation, to make an exordium, where the subject is complaint and injury.—I speak as I feel.—I have been situated in *Monmouthshire* three years, and from almost the first month, have been continually served with summonses to the Court Baron of *Abergavenny*.—Upon this new and unexpected mode of proceeding, I applied for advice to a person, whom I imagined, at that time, to be my friend.—He told me, the only means to prevent such impositions, would be to remove those causes into the Court of King's-Bench. Accordingly that advice I followed for some time; but an accident preventing the Writ of Removal, (*Accedas ad Curiam*, 'tis called) coming time enough for one suit, I was persuaded by my neighbour, *Solomon Jones*, Esq; (the late High Sheriff) to stand a trial in the Court, on the fair foundation of the cause itself. But, Sir, though having a very small knowledge of the practice of the law; yet when I heard an evidence admitted, and perjure himself, to the knowledge of many present, and declare he would swear any thing the Attorney ordered him, I could not help reflecting on the villainy of such practice; more especially so, when I was informed, a Juryman was proposed by the Attorney, to sit on that trial, who at this time, is liable to suffer capitally, for returning from transportation.—I dare say, Sir, I have no occasion to inform you, of my disposition, to have no more trials in such a court; and it would be taking up too much of your time, to give you the particulars of every such cause.

" 'Twas, I think, on *Wednesday* the 19th of *January* last I was served with another summons, in the name of *Jonathan Grosvenor*; having no knowledge of the name, thought it was fictitious, and only intended for the purpose of giving me some trouble; but on enquiry, found the matter to be what the following affidavits will inform you.

" JAMES ROWLAND, bailiff to *John Chapman*, of *Werndee*, in the county of *Monmouth*, gent. maketh oath and saith; That some time in the year 1772, he was in  
company

company with, and heard his master lett a jobb of mooting work, to *Joseph Stanley*, and *Joseph Lewis*, which jobb was in a field called *Kar-Pool-Sound*, and a little field adjoining to it. That the jobb was to moot up all the trees, bushes, and every thing that had a root growing; and to lay the stones in heaps, and to make the ground fit and proper for the plough to perform it's office, without further trouble; and for which jobb, his said master did agree to pay four guineas when finished. That between the 29th of *September*, and the 17th of *November*, the said *Joseph Stanley*, and another man (whose name this deponent says, is *Jonathan Grosvenor*) did begin the said jobb; but not doing their work in a proper manner, were discharged at the request of this deponent, after receiving four shillings for their labour. That the said *Jonathan Grosvenor* never was employed by his master at the jobb; nor did his master know who had began the jobb until his return from *London*."

*Monmouth County* The mark of  
to wit. JAMES T ROWLAND.

Voluntarily sworn before me this 1st day of *February*, 1774.  
J. LEWIS, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace  
in, and for, the said County.

*WILLIAM CHAPMAN*, gent. maketh oath and saith,  
"That *John Chapman*, of *Werndee*, in the County of *Monmouth*, gent. did set out from *Werndee* to *London*, on the 29th of *September*, 1772, and did not return till on or about the 17th of *November* following, during which time, two men began to moot up a piece of rough ground, in a field called *Kar-Pool-Sound*; belonging to the said *John Chapman*; and which men (were discharged from their work) after receiving four shillings, for not doing it in a proper manner. And that the said *John Chapman* was utterly ignorant who had began the work, until his return from *London*."

*Monmouth County*  
to wit. WM. CHAPMAN.

Voluntarily sworn this 1st day of *February*, 1774, before me  
J. LEWIS, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace,  
in, and for, the said County.

I could have sent you two other affidavits to the same purpose; notwithstanding which, I dare not stand a trial in the Court Baron of *Abergavenny*, 'tis so replete with petty-foggers, perjurers, villains of all kinds, and of the lowest class that crawl.

You

You will see, Sir, immediately, from the face of these affidavits, that I let a piece of rough ground to be cleared, by a *Joseph Stanley* and *Joseph Lewis*; but they disagreeing, *Stanley* hired a *Jonathan Grosvenor*, to work with him. — The jobb was began by them, and they were discharged for not doing it properly; and that I was in *London* during the whole time.

This makes, I think, the half score of these actions, brought against me, which I have removed or defended at the expence of some Fifty Pounds: and one of them, cost me a journey to, and from *London*. — And the Deity, who is a witness to my hand-writing, knows, the whole of them, were equally as false, frivolous, and litigious, as the inclosed. And this may be the case (except some interposition) *durante vita*; for I cannot foresee any end thereto.

As a gentleman, and a neighbour, I therefore appeal to your heart; as steward to Lord *Abergavenny*, to your understanding — And I dare say, Sir, your concern will equal mine, if your power to redress this grievance, is not adequate to your wishes. In which case, I desire not to trouble you further, than a recommendation to me, which step is the most proper for me to take herein? I mean, Sir, whether this subject-matter is an object, most proper for the private ear of Lord *Abergavenny*, or to address his Lordship through the public prints in *London*? and for which purpose, I will wait upon you immediately. I must mention another additional circumstance, wherein you can further serve me, (which I hope you will grant) that is, if I am obliged to apply to his Lordship's private ear, you would not give me the disagreeable review of these matters, in a first introduction concerning it; but lay the contents before his Lordship.

P. S. *The Attorney in*  
*all these Causes, signs himself*  
Thomas Jenkins.

And you'll oblige  
your very humble Servant,  
J. CHAPMAN.

*Werndee, 7th. February, 1774.*

An answer to this letter, I received some two months afterwards; but as the contents, my Lord, carried neither information, nor satisfaction, I took it, when in town, to your Lordship's Steward for explanation. — Therefore, my Lord, I have it not.

Should

Should your Lordship imagine me too prolix in the subsequent Part of this Letter, I beg your Lordship to consider, that I have no less than so impartial an ordeal, as the public Eye upon me, and a Detection is easily obtained.—That the regard I bear to Truth, will not suffer me, knowingly to misinform your Lordship.—That from a Certainty of your Lordship's Ear having been abused, is one Motive of this Letter; and therefore, my Lord, I hope you will excuse me, should your Lordship at this Time, think Truth too tedious.

In my Letter to your Lordship's Steward, I made mention of some half Score of these Actions brought against me at the Time I wrote that Letter. And I believe, my Lord, it was then about that Number.—But could I get Information from the Court-book, I could easily satisfy your Lordship. I have called several Times at your Recorder's House, but cannot have an Opportunity of seeing him.

Your Lordship, at the Time, I had the honour of a Conference with you, on this Business, told me, you was quite a Stranger to the Subject—In order therefore, to give your Lordship the whole of the Intelligence, I am capable of, I will begin with the Form of the Writ of Summons, which is the first Introduction to the Notice of your Lordship's Court Baron.

*Manor of Abergavenny.*

WILLIAM MORGAN, Esq; Steward of the said Manor.

To *Charles Osland*, Bailiff of the same Manor, greeting.

“ I command you to summon *John Chapman*, so that he be, and appear at the next Court Baron, to be held at the Guild-Hall, within the Town of *Abergavenny*, in, and for the said Manor, to answer in a Plea of my Office, this

Given under the Seal of

1774.

H. GABB, Recorder.

By the same Steward.

“ JOHN CHAPMAN, you are served with this Process, to the intent, that you may, by your Attorney, appear at the next Court Baron, at the Return thereof, being on Wednesday the day of 1774 in order to your Defence in this Action.

THOMAS JENKINS, Attorney for the Plaintiff.



To this Summons an Appearance must be entered ; or in case of failure, a *Distringas* is issued out, for a contempt of the Court ; and the Officers thereof take away such Cattle or Goods, as come first to hand ; and are by them kept until the Expences attending the Summons and *Distringas*, are discharged, and an Appearance entered by some Attorney.

This Summons, my Lord, may be supposed, that which is mentioned to your Lordship's Steward, in my Letter to him ; and as the *Accedas* could not be procured, I was advised to try the Cause ; and have in that Letter mentioned the iniquitous Practices I was a Witness to. And now I will acquaint your Lordship with the Costs attending a Trial, in your Lordship's Court Baron of *Abergavenny*, viz.

	£.	s.	d.
Warrant to defend	0	1	0
Entering Appearances	0	3	6
Rule to Declare and Fee	0	1	6
Copy, and Service	0	2	0
Copy, Declaration and Fee	0	2	0
Fee on demanding Plea	0	1	0
Attending Court for time to plead and Rule	0	1	6
Drawing Plea	0	3	4
Filing and Fee	0	1	6
Attending taking Instructions to sending for <i>Accedas</i>	0	3	4
Drawing Precipe, and Copy	0	3	0
Paid Curfitor, for making out <i>Accedas</i>	0	5	6
Several Attendants for the same, when there happened to be no private Seat	0	6	8
Retaining Fee, for Trial in <i>Abergavenny</i> Court	0	3	4
Drawing Brief and fair Copy	0	2	0
Journey to <i>Abergavenny</i> to attend Trial	1	1	0
Paid Fees there	0	1	0
Paid Damages and Costs taxed	3	15	10
Attending to tax Plaintiff's Bill	0	3	4
	7	3	0

N. B. The Damages in this Cause were 0 4 6

Your Lordship being now acquainted with the Expences attending a Trial in your Court Baron ; 'tis proper to give your Lordship an Account of the Charges attending a Removal of a Cause, from the Court Baron, into the Court of King's Bench.

Some



Some time, my Lord, in 1773, I was served with a Writ from your Lordship's Court Baron, in the Name of *Joseph Stanley*; and for which an *Accedas ad Curiam* was procured. This is the *Joseph Stanley* already mentioned in my Letter to your Lordship's Steward.

JOHN CHAPMAN, Gent. at the Suit of *Joseph Stanley*.

	£.	s.	d.
Warrant to defend	0	1	0
Entering Appearance and Fee	0	1	6
Copy, Declaration and Fee	0	2	0
Drawing Plea	0	3	4
Filing and Fee	0	1	6
Copy, Issue and Fee	0	2	0
Drawing Brief, and fair Copy	0	2	0
Attending taking Instructions to send for <i>Accedas ad Curiam</i>	0	3	4
Paid for Writ, Fine and Fee	1	0	4
Messenger to Under Sheriff with Writ	0	2	0
Paid Sheriff for reading it	0	6	8
Recorder	0	2	6
Suitors	0	2	8
Crier	0	0	6
Paid the Under Sheriff his Journey to <i>Aber-</i> <i>gavenny</i> to read the Writ	1	1	0
My Journey there, Horse hire, and Expences	1	1	0
Postage of Writ to London	0	0	8
Paid filing it, and Fee	0	7	8
Warrant to defend	0	1	0
Entering Appearance	0	5	10
Fee, Cause ended	0	3	4
	5	11	10

The above Sum, my Lord, I paid for removing this Cause.

I have, my Lord, one other Bill, to shew your Lordship. It was paid on Account of an *Accedas* not coming, and without any Trial.

## WILLIAM MORGAN—against JOHN CHAPMAN.

	£.	s.	d.
Warrant to proceed	0	1	0
Summons	0	4	0
Entering Action	0	1	6
Fee	0	1	0
Declaration drawing	0	0	8
Filing	0	1	0
Rule to Plead and Fee	0	1	6
Notice to demand Plea, Copy and Service	0	2	0
Copy, Plea and Fee	0	2	0
Entering Similiter	0	1	6
Venire	0	2	6
Subpoena	0	2	0
Notice of trial, Copy and Service	0	2	0
Drawing four Tickets	0	4	0
Serving Three Witnesses	0	1	6
Gave Witnesses	0	1	6
Drawing Brief and fair Copy	0	4	2
Council	0	3	4
Attorney's Fee	0	5	0
Summoning Jury	0	2	0
Bill, Costs, and Copy	0	1	0
Taxing Costs	0	1	0
Attorney's Fee, four Courts	0	4	0
	0	8	2
Debt	0	17	0
	3	17	4

Taxed the above Debt and Costs to £. 3 9 2 by me  
H. GABB, Recorder.

So that after having paid my own Attorney, you perceive my Lord, I must be about eight Pounds out of Pocket.

In this Place, my Lord, I beg your Lordship's Attention. I have mentioned, in the Letter to your Lordship's Steward, that the Attorney in all these Causes, signs himself THOMAS JENKINS.—I once more entreat your Lordship's Observation, that he signs his Name THOMAS JENKINS, is an Attorney of the Court of King's-Bench, and lives in the Town of Abergavenny.

With

With these repeated Acts of cruel Oppression, my Lord, I was continually treated.—When, being in Company with some Workmen in the Grounds, on the 7th of *March*, 1774, word was brought to me, That two of my Cows were taken from the Fold, by the Bailiffs, and put into your Lordship's Pound in *Abergavenny*.

I immediately waited on my Neighbour, Colonel *Chambre*, a Gentleman in the Commission of the Peace; who told me, he did imagine it was occasioned by a *Distingas* for a Contempt; he having a Tenant, who some time past, was served in the same manner. And that the Summons was afterwards found to have been put in at a Window, not much frequented.—The Gentleman, who used to make Appearances for me, was that Day at *Brecon*; so that I could apply to no one, but your Lordship's Recorder, of the Court Baron, a Mr. *Henry Gabb*, a Limeburner,—who would not interfere for the delivering the Cattle, though I offered any Indemnification. I must here acquaint your Lordship, that as the Evening drew near, it likewise brought on a most violent cold, rainy, and stormy Night.—The Anxiety I was under for my Cattle, as they were expected to calve every Hour, they being taken from a well littered Cowhouse, and exposed in such a Night, and up to their Bellies in Mud and Water, made me determine at all Events, to break the Pound open, and to take them away. But I was prevented.—The Attorney knew a Business of that Sort might make an Alarm, and he prevented me, by removing the Cows to Mr. *Wallington's*, the Greyhound-Inn, in *Abergavenny*. I was with my Attorney, at *Monmouth*, early the next Morning; and then found it to be a *Distingas*, for a Non-Appearance to a County Court Writ, in the Name of *Thomas Price*,—Being very certain, my Lord, that I had received no Summons, and not knowing the Man, I was much surprized at this Intelligence; but when I returned to *Abergavenny* to demand my Cattle, I enquired who had served me with a Summons? And immediately a Man presenting himself, declared, he had served me with it, in Person, at my own House.—He told me, his Name was *John Davies*; but I find him much better known in this County, by the Name of *Gwipes*.

The Cattle, my Lord, were taken from me on the 7th of *March*, and I recovered them again on the 8th; but on the 23d of the same Month, in riding through  
*Abergavenny*,

*Abergavenny*, this same *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, called to me and said, he wanted to speak with me.—As I had by this Time been furnished with the Particulars of his real Character, I would not stop till I had a Witness to his Business, with me.—And accordingly in the House, and in the Presence of Mr. *William Herbert*, an Ironmonger, he served me with a Writ from your Lordship's Court, as from the said *Thomas Price*, and by the same Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*.—At the same time, he served me with five other Writs from your Lordship's Court. And I was obliged to enter Appearances, by a Gentleman in *Abergavenny*, (since deceased) to the six Actions immediately.

Your Lordship must here be acquainted, That on enquiry into the Character of this *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, (who, I was very certain had sworn to a Falsity concerning any Service of the Writ upon me) I found he had occasioned a Neighbour and his Wife to be made Prisoners a Day and a Night, by his false swearing to the Service of an Exchequer Writ, in a Cause wherein the same *Thomas Jenkins* was the Attorney, and who had employed the same *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, to make the Service of that Subpoena.

Be pleased to remark, my Lord, the Day I had the six Writs from your Lordship's Court served upon me, by this *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, was the 23d of *March* last; and at the Assizes which came on the very next Day, I took this Neighbour of mine to *Chepstow*, (the Goal Distemper being at *Mohmmouth*) and a Bill for wilful and corrupt Perjury was found against this *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*.—Whereupon a Warrant for apprehending him being granted to the Constable of the Parish where I preside, he took this *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes* in *Abergavenny*.

I am sorry to inform your Lordship, of a Mistake made by the Constable in thus taking this *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, for the Warrant being directed to the Chief and Petty Constables of the County of *Monmouth*, the Constable never imagined he was burning his Fingers, to take him in the Parish of *Abergavenny*.—But he did there take him, and conducted him to *Usk*, to which Goal he was committed.

The Consequence of which was, about three Days afterwards, he was bailed out. And at the very hour he was bailed out, the Constable going through *Usk*, was met by the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, and another (his Colleague)

in a post-chaise, who had been on the Business of bailing this *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, and who upon meeting this Constable, immediately stopped the Chaise and jumped out; followed the Constable, and calling to *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, to assist them; for they had caught the Constable, and would do for him. He therefore was obliged to seek Security, by sheltering himself at the Angel-Inn in *Usk*; and directly sent for a Gentleman in the Town (a Justice for the County) to afford him necessary Protection.—But this Outrage being committed in *Usk*, and as the Portrieve, is the Chief Magistrate there, and that Gentleman being from home, the Constable was advised to stay there that Evening, and go forward on his Journey next Morning, which Advice was followed.—And on his returning home a few Days afterwards, waited on *John Lewis*, Esq; of *Landils-Crusoney*, who granted his Warrant against the said *Thomas Jenkins*, and his Colleague in the Chaise, and against *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, for Sureties of the Peace towards the Constable, and who accordingly were bound to appear at the next Quarter-Sessions at *Caerleon*.—It so happened, my Lord, at the Quarter-Sessions, that these People, instead of being discharged, were held still on their Recognizances.—My Lord, I mean the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, and his Colleague; but as to *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, the Bench committed him to *Monmouth Goal*, for want of Sureties of Two Hundred Pounds. And though the Attorney *Thomas Jenkins*, and his Colleague, applied for a Discharge at the next Quarter-Sessions, at *Chepstow*, yet it was thought proper, not to discharge them, until the last Quarter-Sessions, at *Newport*. As for *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, he is still in *Monmouth Goal*, to be tried at the next Assizes for the Perjury.—My Lord, I am fearful, at this Period, your Lordship will say, this is neither to You, nor to your Court Baron.—But, pardon me, my Lord, if your Lordship insists upon it, as a Digression, I readily allow it; and yet it may be found to have its Use.—I before acquainted your Lordship, that the Constable, by taking this *John Davies*, alial *Gwipes*, in the Town of *Abergavenny*, did burn his Fingers, (metaphorically speaking, my Lord,) and he did so, by giving Offence to the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, who brought an Action for this *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, and declared against the Constable, for One Hundred Pounds Damages.



Damages.—Indeed, my Lord, I believe, he could, with some Truth say, that this *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes* might be an Hundred Pounds value to him.—But I think, the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, over-rated the Mistake of the Constable.—Because this *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, has been once sentenced to be transported for Felony; and through the Lenity of the Court, it is now owing, that he has been thus at large, to be a further Nuisance to the Country in general.

It perhaps, may be unknown to your Lordship, but it is a Custom which was long ago established, and always claimed by your Lordship's Steward, to nominate the Petty Constable for the Parish in which I reside. And as there was a Stranger just come to reside in the Parish, your Lordship's Steward, (for Reasons to himself best known, made his Election on the Stranger.—I assure your Lordship, I was that unlucky Stranger, your Steward honoured in chusing Petty Constable.—And, my Lord, I was the unfortunate Constable, who had the Imprudence to take *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, from before his Master's Face, in the Town of *Abergavenny*.—That identical *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*,—that Pillar of Perjury,—that main Support of Practice, in the Court Baron of *Abergavenny*.

My Lord, I never shall forget, what this *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, told me, when I was taking him from *Abergavenny* to *Usk*.—He told me, and wept bitterly, when he said it, 'That a *Peter Davies*, an Attorney, and one who was a Practitioner in your Lordship's Court Baron, was the first who broke him in, (that was the Expression.) But on his dying in *Monmouth* Goal, he had been employed by the Attorney, *Thomas J*.—My Lord, I am afraid of burning my Fingers again, if I mention his Master's Name here.—but as I am an Evidence against him at the Assizes, I will then mention it.—He told me, moreover, That he had been employed since the Death of *Peter Davies*, (except when he committed the Felony) in the common Practice of Perjury,—in swearing any Thing, and against any Person, when his Master gave him Orders for that Purpose.—My Lord, he confessed he had never served me with the County Court Writ, nor had ever spoke to me before that Morning on which I recovered my Cattle.—That as to my Neighbour and his Wife, he declared, he had never been near their House, at the Time he had sworn it.

This



This is the Man, my Lord, who was proposed by the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, as a Jurymen, on the Trial I had in your Lordship's Court Baron.

It was, I think, my Lord, about the 4th of *April* last, the Gentleman died, who had been so kind as to put in Appearances to the six Actions I was served with, of the 23d of *March*. And the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, having demanded Pleas on the 11th of *April*, late in the Evening, against the next Court Day, which was on the 13th, I desired the Gentleman, who was Clerk to the Deceased, to put in Pleas for my Attorney.—As the shortness of the Time for Notice would not permit me to send for them : But the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, refused taking those Pleas, from any, but my Attorney ; and insisted upon Judgment.—To be sure, my Lord, I was forewarned what the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins* would do ; and indeed, I did send Express to my Attorney at *Monmouth*, for Pleas, and which came only time enough to prevent Judgment.—Execution, my Lord, was certain for me.

I then applied to Mr. *Kensley*, an Attorney at Law, and Nephew to your Lordship's Steward, *William Morgan*, Esq; I told Mr. *Kensley* my Case :—But Mr. *Kensley* had before been acquainted with these violent Proceedings against me ; and he declared, the Practice of the Court was so notorious, that he would not appear in it, as an Attorney, even for his own Brother ; but gave his Opinion for the Dissolution of the Court, had it been in his Power, as Steward, to have accomplished.

My Lord, I must here mention particularly the Names of the Plaintiff, in two of these six Causes, wherein Pleas were demanded, as it is matter of some Information respecting what follows. The one was in the Cause of *Joseph Stanley*, already mentioned in my Letter to your Lordship's Steward ; and the other, of a *Richard Phillips*, to be mentioned hereafter.

Having Business, my Lord, which called me to the Continent, I left home on the 21st of *April* last ; and on my return to *London*, took Occasion, from the Intelligence I received from home, to write to your Lordship's Steward, the following Letter :

C

SIR,

S I R,

“ Returning from the Continent, I am informed from  
 “ *Werndee*, that on your last Court Day, a Summons there-  
 “ to was left at my House. And to which, (and I think  
 “ very improperly) my Attorney, being by Accident, at my  
 “ House, entered an Appearance. I desire the Favour of  
 “ you to inform me, whether my Kinsman or Servants are  
 “ obliged to enter an Appearance to a Summons, to pre-  
 “ vent a *Distringas*? Or whether a *Distringas* will follow  
 “ for a Non-Appearance at the time, I may be at *Vienna*  
 “ or *Berlin*? Uncertain as my stay may be in Town, I beg  
 “ your Answer by return of Post.

To *William Morgan, Esq;*  
*Abergavenny.*

“ I am, S I R,  
 “ your very humble Servant,  
 “ JOHN CHAPMAN.”

*Parliament Coffee-House,*  
*17th May, 1774*

To this Letter, My Lord, I could have no Answer.—  
 In a few Days I understood the Steward was in *London*;  
 and accordingly on the 21st of *May*, I waited on him at his  
 House in *Seymour Street*, where the Conversation concerning  
 your Lordship's Court Baron, and the Hardships I was  
 obliged to suffer therefrom, lasted I believe an Hour.

Your Lordship's Steward told me, the Court was designed  
 for the ease and conveniency of your Lordship's Tenants, to  
 which I readily assented;—but told him, that the very best  
 Purposes and Intentions were often perverted. And that I  
 was very certain, the Case of your Lordship's Court was so.  
 He mentioned that the Expences of a Writ or Summons  
 was trifling, and likewise, that a Trial might be obtained  
 for very small Costs. I then told him of the Bills I had paid  
 for such Matters, as this Letter has already informed your  
 Lordship; but to which, I could get no other Satisfaction,  
 than a Shrug of Surprise; and that he could not tell how  
 it could be.

The next Post or two, brought me further Information  
 from home, relative to these Grievances. I applied again to  
 your Lordship's Steward on the 30th of *May*; at which  
 time I endeavoured to make the Steward understand by what  
 Ways

*Ways and Means* I did imagine, *he might redress me*. But as his Reply is in a Letter, I sent to your Lordship, I will refer your Lordship to it. Your Steward said, he was soon going to *Abergavenny*, and that he would grant me all the Redress possible, by recommending to your Lordship to put a stop to the issuing any Summons from you Lordship's Court.

The very next day, my Lord, I was introduced by a Friend to a Gentleman well known to your Lordship; and who recommended it to me, as a necessary Step to apply to your Lordship. Being therefore determined to wait on your Lordship, I wrote the following Letter to your Lordship's Steward:

“ S I R,

“ Having considered the Discourse of Monday last with you, relative to the ill Usage, I have met with, in the Court Baron of *Abergavenny*, I cannot find my Apprehensions any ways removed from the certainty of the same treatment, notwithstanding you tell me, you give me Credit in my relation of Facts,—and that you afford me Pity as a Man and a Neighbour.—To be sure, Sir, you told me the Redress must arise from a total Deprivation of Power in that Court. And as my Lord *Abergavenny* must be informed of my particular Case, I think, Sir, it would be extremely remiss in me, not to make my Situation known to his Lordship immediately; that some interposition may be made before the next Court Day. And more particularly so, as you say, 'tis out of your Power to give me an Answer to the Question I put to you, *What I am to do?* not having any Attorney who will so far degrade himself, as to appear in that horrid and villainous Court?

To *William Morgan, Esq;*  
*Seymour - Street, Port-*  
*Portman-Square.*

“ I am, S I R,  
“ your very humble Servant,  
“ J. CHAPMAN.”

*Parliament Coffee-House,*  
*1st June, 1774.*

I must here acquaint your Lordship, concerning the Nature and Reason of the above Question, I had desired of your Steward to answer me — For which purpose I entreat your Lordship's Attention to my first Letter to your Steward, dated the 7th of *January*, 1774; which mentions a Summons from a *Jonathan Grosvenor*, and which was carried on to a Trial, during my being in *London*. But the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, instead of applying to any Part of the matter in those Affidavits, in the Letter, procured a Man to swear, he saw this *Grosvenor* work three Days with me at Harvest, in 1772. And that alone was sufficient to carry a Verdict in your Lordship's Court against me. My Attorney, after the Trial, my Lord, desiring the Attorney *Thomas Jenkins*, to give him the Bill of Debt and Costs, to discharge it immediately, an Excuse was made to defer it, and that it should be sent to *Monmouth* in a few Days. — However, my Lord, early the next Morning, the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, sent up the Bailiffs, who broke open a Gate, and drove six Head of Cattle off my Farm into your Lordship's Pound, and were kept there until the Debt and Costs were discharged, which amounted to five Pounds seven Shillings and ten Pence; and could not be indulged with a Bill to know for what it was paid.

This Sum, added to my own Attorney's Bill, I believe will come to very little short of Ten Pounds.

My Lord, there were at the Time of this Trial, no less than five Witnesses (Workmen) at my House, to prove the paying every Man that Harvest, every Evening of the Day they worked with me. And the Evidence who proved his working there, came up to my People the next Day, and told them, that had he been asked the Question about the Payment, he should likewise have sworn, that he saw *Grosvenor* paid.

Concerning this transaction, my Lord, I received a Letter from my Attorney, with concluding, "That as it was the first Cause he ever had defended in your Lordship's Court, so likewise it should be the last." —

Your Lordship has now before you the Nature and Reason of the Question, I proposed to your Lordship's Steward. "What I am to do, not having any Attorney who will so far

“ far degrade himself as to appear in that horrid and villainous Court, the Court Baron of *Abergavenny*.”

Let us pause, my Lord, — Can your Lordship imagine there is a possibility of existing in this World, without some mutual Faith amongst us? Can there be an Instance equal to the Transaction in your Lordship's Court Baron, so nicely calculated to destroy that necessary cement in Life, between Man and Man? more particularly so, I think in the farming Business. 'Tis an antient Profession, My Lord; and, as we have no Custom handed down to us of the Necessity of taking a Receipt from a Day-Labourer in Harvest-time, I do imagine my Case to be the only one that can be produced, where a Requisition of it, was ever before made in a Court of Law. I think it extremely hard upon me in this Case, my Lord; but I must needs allow, that the embarrassment would certainly be encreased, when the Case should happen, that neither Farmer or Labourer could write or read.

To proceed, my Lord, — Agreeably to my Intention of waiting upon your Lordship, I so did. 'Twas on the 6th of *June*, at your Lordship's House in Grosvenor Place. At which time, as I before acquainted your Lordship, “ I flattered myself that I should meet with Redress, from the Nature of the Oppression, joined to your Lordship's seeming Disposition to afford me Relief.”

Your Lordship, at parting, desired me to call on your Steward in Seymour-Street; and in consequence thereof, I wrote the following Letter to your Lordship:

“ My LORD,

“ Your Lordship is hereby acquainted, That Mr. *Morgan* is set out for *Abergavenny*. — A Circumstance extremely  
 “ unfortunate for me, as it prevents your Lordship's personal  
 “ Enquiry and Interposition, so much wanted on my Part.  
 “ Your Lordship, I hope, will excuse me, in the Urgency  
 “ of my Case, if I should entreat your Lordship to forward  
 “ this Business, (by Letter) agreeable to your Lordship's  
 “ Intention, had Mr. *Morgan* been in Town; that such  
 “ Materials may be collected to enable your Lordship to form  
 “ a Resolution for my Relief. And more especially so, my  
 Lord,



“ Lord, when Mr. *Morgan*, who says, He does me the  
 “ Honour of Credit in my Relation of the Facts, and af-  
 “ fords me Pity as a Man and a Neighbour. Yet cannot  
 “ answer me the Question, What I am to do? not having  
 “ any Attorney who will so far degrade himself, as to ap-  
 “ pear in that horrid and villanous Court?—As the Inter-  
 “ position therefore, must originate with your Lordship,  
 “ I hope, my Lord, you will do so much Justice to a Stran-  
 “ ger, that on the next Court-Day, I may not have Eight  
 “ or Ten Pounds taken from me in my Absence, (as was  
 “ the Case the last Court-Day) by a Sett of Villans, who  
 “ are a Disgrace to human Nature, and a Reproach to their  
 “ Place of Habitation.—Was I at home, my Lord, I  
 “ could give you an Account of these Proceedings against  
 “ me in your Lordship’s Court Baron, since my first Resi-  
 “ dence in the County; and likewise the Money it hath  
 “ cost me to defend myself therein.—But I would not wish  
 “ to take up a Moment of your Lordship’s Time, not even  
 “ to the reading of the Contents, was I not assured of your  
 “ Lordship’s natural Disposition; and that in taking a Part  
 “ with me, your Lordship takes the humane Side of the  
 “ Question.

To the Rt. Hon.  
 The Lord Abergavenny,  
 Grosvenor-Place,  
 Pimlico.

“ I am, my LORD,  
 “ Your Lordship’s  
 “ Most humble Servant,  
 “ J. CHAPMAN.”

Parliament Coffee-House,  
 7th June, 1774

The same Day, my Lord, I wrote the following Letter  
 to your Lordship’s Steward:

“ S I R,

“ A few Days after I called upon you in Seymour-Street,  
 “ I was introduced (by a Friend) to a Gentleman of confi-  
 “ derable Property in the County of *Monmouth*, and well  
 “ known to Lord Abergavenny. And on being informed of the  
 “ ill Treatment I have met with, in the Court Baron, he  
 “ recommended to me to wait on his Lordship, in order to  
 “ acquaint him therewith.—I therefore yesterday Morning  
 “ met



“ met with his Lordship at home ; and he wishing to see  
 “ you on the Subject this Morning, desired me to call on  
 “ you, to acquaint you therewith.—I had indeed, acquainted  
 “ his Lordship, that I imagined you was gone ; but his  
 “ Lordship thought otherwise. However, I have informed  
 “ him, that you are at *Abergavenny*. And as you are well  
 “ acquainted with the Nature of my Grievance, I need on-  
 “ ly add, that I hope for your Support, as a Gentleman, a  
 “ Neighbour, and Steward to the Right Honourable the  
 “ Lord *Abergavenny*.

To William Morgan, Esq;  
*Abergavenny*

Parliament Coffee-House,  
 7th June, 1774.

“ I am, S I R,  
 “ Your humble Servant,  
 “ J. CHAPMAN.”

In a Post or two, my Lord, I received a Letter from my Attorney, which gave Occasion for the following Letter to your Lordship :

“ My LORD,

“ I am under the Necessity of informing your Lordship,  
 “ that by the last Post, I received Advice from my Attorney,  
 “ that Notice for another Trial, was given him from your  
 “ Court Baron. At the same Time, he declares to me,  
 “ that he will not appear there again, on any Consideration.  
 “ —Under these Circumstances, my Lord, it is impossible  
 “ for me to live.—Had I your Lordship’s Fortune, I could  
 “ not hold out against it.—Your Lordship will, doubtless  
 “ be affected, when you are acquainted, That my Kinsman  
 “ informs me, the Person hath not the least Demand upon  
 “ me.—He having a Receipt in full to produce, and to  
 “ which he is a Witness, near three Years ago. I was  
 “ therefore obliged, in order to prevent my Goods being  
 “ seized by your Officers, to send down a Writ of *Accedas*  
 “ *ad Curiam*.

“ My Lord, I foresee, if your Lordship does not imme-  
 “ diately suppress your Court,—the Court will undoubtedly  
 “ oppress me to Ruin and Destruction. —And though I  
 “ would not set a Value on my own Philosophy ; yet I leave  
 “ it to your Lordship’s Knowledge of the World, that there  
 “ are very few Men, who would, or could have been so  
 “ cruelly

“ cruelly treated for upwards of three Years, with such repeated Acts of Villainy, but must have been urged, by the nature of Things, to some act of Desperation.—I again humbly entreat your Lordship’s Interposition.

To the Rt Hon.  
The Lord Abergavenny,  
Grosvenor-Square,  
Pimlico.

“ I am, my LORD,  
“ Your Lordship’s  
“ Most humble Servant,  
“ J CHAPMAN.”

Parliament Coffee-House,  
13th June, 1774.

This Notice of Trial, my Lord, was on behalf of *Richard Phillips*, that I before mentioned to your Lordship; and for which, an *Accedas ad Curiam* was sent down, on Saturday the 11th of June, 1774. I shall have Occasion to mention the Name of *Richard Phillips* again.

My last Letter to your Lordship was on the 13th of June, and on the same Day, I received a Letter from my Kinsman, wherein among other Things he tells me, that Mr. *Jones* had been with Mr. *Morgan*, your Lordship’s Steward, concerning these Injuries. And Mr. *Morgan* told him, “ If the Recorder had behaved ill, he would discharge him.—As to the Attorney he could not interfere with.”

The above Letter I inclosed, and with it the following:

“ My Lord,

“ Your Lordship will excuse my making a Comment on this Account, by observing the Villainy of this *Thomas Jenkins*, the Attorney, who knowing that I have no Attorney to appear for me, has sent another Summons for a *Joseph Stanley*; which Cause has been removed by *Accedas ad Curiam* a long Time since;—so that after having paid several Pounds in this Cause already, I shall for want of an Attorney, be obliged to pay the same over again.

“ I wonder, my Lord, at Mr. *Morgan*’s mode of Argument; He knows the Abuse is not owing to the Recorder, for any other Recorder, can do the same.—The Abuse  
“ lies

“ lies in the very Power your Lordship has invested in the  
 “ Recorder. And that Power your Lordship must take  
 “ away, before any Redress can be obtained.—I assure  
 “ your Lordship, there is not a Mr. *Morgan* living, who  
 “ should not answer to me, for these Injuries ;—and in a  
 “ manner that renders all Mankind on an Equality.—But  
 “ as that String has already been touched upon, I will give  
 “ your Lordship Mr. *Morgan*’s own Words.—Sir, (says  
 “ Mr. *Morgan* to me,) *I am only Lord Abergavenny’s Stew-*  
 “ *ard, and the Redress you speak of, must come from his Lord-*  
 “ *ship ; and the means as thus :*

Mr. MORGAN,

“ I hereby Order, That from and after the next Court-  
 “ Day, which is on Wednesday the 15th of *June 1774*, no  
 “ Summons be issued by the Recorder of my Court Baron,  
 “ until further Orders from me,

“ ABERGAVENNY.”

“ After this Declaration, and being recommended by a  
 “ Gentleman known to your Lordship, I waited upon your  
 “ Lordship for Redress.

“ At present, My Lord, I lie at your Lordship’s Justice.  
 “ —’Tis that which must determine whether I shall have  
 “ a Bed to lie on, or lie in the open Air. There can be  
 “ no Medium in such desperate Cases.

*To the Rt. Hon.*  
*The Lord Abergavenny,*  
*Grosvenor Place,*  
*Pimlico.*

“ I am, my LORD,  
 “ Your Lordship’s  
 “ Most humble Servant,  
 “ J. CHAPMAN.”

*Parliament Coffee-House,*  
*14th June, 1774.*

Not hearing from your Lordship, my Necessity obliged  
 me to send your Lordship the following.

My LORD,

“ Should your Lordship’s Steward at *Abergavenny* be led  
 “ from any Motive, to with a Continuance of the Practice

D

“ in

“ in your Lordship’s Court Baron, I fear the Relief I hoped  
 “ for, from your Lordship, may be at such a Distance, that  
 “ I shall not feel it’s happy Influence, during the Possession  
 “ of any Property left me. I am led to this Reflection, my  
 “ Lord, by having Intelligence so regularly sent me, from  
 “ my Attorney. and from Home, of a continuance of the  
 “ same violent Measures ; and have not yet heard a Breath  
 “ relative to a Redress thereof.—My Attorney met your  
 “ Steward in *Monmouth*, on his Journey homewards, and  
 “ acquainted him of the Treatment he met with, at your  
 “ Lordship’s Court Baron, and of his Resolution to attend  
 “ there no more.

“ Certainly, my Lord, there has been Time enough for  
 “ Mr. *Morgan* to have furnished your Lordship with neces-  
 “ sary Intelligence and Recommendation thereon, towards  
 “ your Lordship’s stopping their Practice, had Mr. *Morgan*  
 “ been so inclined, for some of my Neighbours have been  
 “ with him on the Subject.

“ My Lord, from the good Will of divers Friends, I  
 “ am advised differently. — All agree I am a real Ob-  
 “ ject. I have hitherto made no other Application, but  
 “ from the Steward of your Court, up to your Lordship,  
 “ where the Matter now rests.

“ My Lord, a satisfactory Relief is due to me.—I  
 “ cannot long survive the present mode of Treatment,  
 “ practised upon my Reputation and Property.

To the Rt. Hon.  
 The Lord Abergavenny.  
 Grosvenor Place,  
 Pimlico.

“ I am, my LORD,  
 “ Your Lordship’s  
 “ Most humble Servant,  
 “ J. CHAPMAN.”

Parliament Coffee-House,  
 21st June, 1774.

Having received the following Letter from my Kinsman,  
 I sent it to your Lordship.—’Tis the Copy of a Letter  
 sent by Mr. *William Chapman*, from my House at *Werndee*,  
 to your Steward in *Abergavenny* ; and the Answer, (such as  
 it is) annexed.

Copy

Copy of a Letter to WILLIAM MORGAN, Esq; at  
Abergavenny.

S I R,

“ Being informed, That the Court Baron will be held  
 “ To-morrow, permit me to beg the Favour of your  
 “ Advice, (as Steward of that Court) in what Manner  
 “ I must then act, if any Summons should be sent to  
 “ me, against Mr. *John Chapman*, in his Absence. — He  
 “ has in two several Letters desired me to apply to you;  
 “ having had the Pleasure some Time ago, of waiting on  
 “ you some time in *London*. — Last Court Day, one  
 “ *Jonathan Grosvenor* brought on a Trial against him, for  
 “ Money owing to him, about a Year ago, on a Jobb of  
 “ Mooting. — A Man, whom Mr. *John Chapman* never saw,  
 “ being then in *London*, and employed by one *Joseph Stan-*  
 “ *ley*. — The Attorney, *Jenkins*, artfully on the Trial,  
 “ changed it for a Debt of Three Shillings and Six-pence  
 “ in the Harvest, due to him two Years ago. — As we had  
 “ no Suspicion of this Proceeding, and having also no Wit-  
 “ nesses in Court at that Time, to prove the Payment of it;  
 “ yet at home, we have four Witnesses, who are ready to  
 “ make their Affidavits that they saw him paid. — *Jenkins*  
 “ the Attorney, promised to send his Bill of Costs to Mr.  
 “ *Chapman's* Attorney at *Monmouth* on the Saturday follow-  
 “ ing. — But early next Morning, after the Court Day, he  
 “ sent the Bailiffs, who took away six Cattle out of the  
 “ Field, without producing any Authority for the same —  
 “ The Cattle were redeemed, on paying the Bill of Costs,  
 “ which amounted to five Pounds seven Shillings and ten  
 “ Pence. — This *Jenkins*, knowing that one *Hanbury* (a  
 “ Nailor, the Witness in *Grosvenor's* Cause) was at Work  
 “ that Harvest, sent a Writ in his Name for Six-pence due  
 “ to him. — The above-mentioned *Stanley's* Cause comes on  
 “ To-morrow. The Money to pay the Bill of Costs, was  
 “ offered to *Jenkins* the Attorney for Payment, but was  
 “ refused, unless paid into Court, which we intend to do,  
 “ or into the Hands of the Recorder. — I hope, Sir, you will  
 “ excuse this long Detail, thus harassed, as Mr. *Chapman* has  
 “ been with these shameful Actions, ever since he has re-  
 “ sided here; therefore I should be obliged to you, Sir, to  
 “ inform me, (as Mr. *Solomon Jones* forgot to ask you)  
 “ whether any Summons can legally be served at the House  
 in



" in Mr. *Chapman's* Absence, two Hours before the Court is held? He having no Attorney to plead for him; his Attorney having declared, that he never had before, nor ever will attend again for him, or any other Client in that Court.

" I am, S I R,

June 14th, 1774.

*Werndee,*

" Your most obedient Servant

" WM. CHAPMAN."

P. S. Dear JACK,

*Henry Gabb*, the Recorder, the next Day informed me, that Mr. *Morgan* had wrote a Note to him, desiring that he would answer my Letter, as he could not interfere in the Affair.—Telling me, at the same Time, that you had called several Times at Mr. *Morgan's* House in *London*, troubling and teasing him with your Business; and that he should have nothing to do with it.—*Gabb* also said, he could not.

Your loving Kinsman,

W. C.

Your Lordship, on the Receipt of this Letter, sent out Word to the servant, that there was no Occasion for an Answer. And therefore, my Lord, under a Necessity of being at Home, I wrote the following Card to your Lordship:

To the Right Honourable Lord ABERGAVENNY,  
*Grosvenor Place, Pimlico.*

" Mr. *Chapman's* most respectful Compliments attend  
" Lord *Abergavenny*, begs to know the Time of his Lord-  
" ship's Leisure this Day or To-morrow, for Mr. *Chapman*  
" to wait on his Lordship."

Parliament Coffee House,  
Tuesday Morn. 28th  
of June, 1774.

The Servant not being in the way, who had attended with my Letters to your Lordship, I sent this Card by one employed in the Parliament Office. He told me, your Lordship enquired of him, whether he knew the business on which he came? His Answer (he says) was, that in consequence



consequence of Mr. *Chapman's* generally taking a Bed, when in Town, with a Gentleman belonging to the Parliament Office, and under whom he was employed: he had heard of the Grievance respecting your Lordship's Court Baron of *Abergavenny*; and, that he did suppose the Letter he had brought your Lordship, alluded to the Oppression I met with in that Court, but no farther could he tell. He likewise added, as from your Lordship, that, if I had a desire to see your Lordship, I might, on Thursday Morning, nine o'Clock.

The Card, my Lord, you perceive, was sent to your Lordship on Tuesday the 28th of June; and the Verbal Appointment to see your Lordship was on Thursday the 30th, at nine o'Clock in the Morning. In consequence of this Intelligence, I waited at your Lordship's House, at nine o'Clock, on Thursday Morning; and the Answer I received at the Door, was, that your Lordship was indisposed and in Bed. On calling again, at five o'Clock in the Afternoon, I was informed, that your Lordship's Indisposition still prevailed, but recommended to call the next Day. Accordingly, my Lord, I was at your Lordship's House, by ten o'Clock, on Friday the 1st of July; and the Answer I then received was, that your Lordship was riding out. On a certainty, therefore, of meeting your Lordship before Dinner, I called about three o'Clock, when I was informed, that your Lordship was not yet come home. I afterwards called between five and six o'Clock, and your Lordship was then engaged. At eight o'Clock, my Lord, I got into the *Gloucester* Coach, and was at home the next Evening, on Saturday the 2d of July, and accordingly I acquainted your Lordship therewith.

The Wednesday following, my Lord, being the 6th of July, was the Day when the trial was to come on, in your Lordship's Court, on account of the *Thomas Price* already mentioned. And as this Circumstance was known to me in *London*, I made a point of waiting on my Attorney, in *Monmouth*, as I passed through, on the Saturday, coming home; and intreated him, for this one Trial, to appear again for me, in your Lordship's Court. Accordingly, my Lord, when the Trial was expected to come on, there was neither a *Thomas Price* nor a Witness; and though my Attorney waited on your Lordship's Steward, yet he had no other Answer, than its being the Custom of the Court.

My Lord, let us trace this matter back. In the first place, my Cattle were taken away; myself and Servants taken from their employ to seek after them. As for myself, I had a Journey to *Monmouth*, to my Attorney, to recover them, in as severe a Morning as ever the Heavens produced; and, upon recovering them, was then served with a Writ from your Lordship's Court Baron, which was on Wednesday the 23d of March last; when, after declaring, filing, seeing, and similitur, down to the 6th of July, at the Time my Attorney came sixteen Miles to try this Cause, there was no Plaintiff produced; not a Witness in the Court, nor any Remedy for these Proceedings; your Lordship's Steward telling my Attorney, "It was the Custom of the Court."

This is what *has* been done to me; and yet, my Lord, (cruel as my Case is) their *might* have been a greater Calamity than all this; at least, my Lord, I think so.

There are, my Lord, of the Nobility, some, who are extremely tenacious of their prerogative; and though I am a stranger to your Lordship's Principles on that head, yet I cannot help thinking (and my Reasons I will give your Lordship in the Postscript) that had not my Cattle been removed, and I had proceeded to recover them, by breaking open your Lordship's Pound, this affair would have been laid before your Lordship in such a Manner, that injured as I am already, a *rigorous Prosecution* would have been the consequence.

I must here tell your Lordship, that on the Morning of this intended Trial, my Attorney breakfasted with me, and during which, the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, sent up two other Writs from your Lordship's Court; and to which, though my Attorney entered appearances, to prevent my Cattle from being seized, yet he declared, he never would, on any Account whatever, appear again, in that horrid and villainous Court; the Court Baron of *Abergavenny*.

In this dilemma, my Lord, I took a most surprizing Resolution: I resolved to send the State of these Cases to the Attorney *Thomas Jenkins*. The Person who took the Account to him, paid the Money for me, and took the Man's Receipt for the same. He likewise produced the Receipt which he had given to me when he took the Money, and to which there was a subscribing Witness. Notwithstanding

ing these clear, plain, and undoubted Facts, yet, my Lord, having no Attorney to proceed for me, I was obliged to pay six Pounds nineteen Shillings and eight-pence. This was on the 17th of *August*, 1774; and this, my Lord, is the last Robbery to which I was obliged to submit, in your Lordship's Court Baron of *Abergavenny*.

My Lord, I believe the Law hath provided a Punishment for sending a threatening Letter to extort Money from any one; but under the Cover of a Summons to the Court Baron of *Abergavenny*, that Species of Robbery meets with Impunity.

The following Anecdote is too curious to be omitted; I therefore beg Leave to make your Lordship acquainted with it.

I was served with a Writ from your Lordship's Court Baron, and knowing but one Man in the World of that Name mentioned in the Writ, and he residing at *Bristol*, I immediately went thither, and received the following Information. He had been (he said) to *Abergavenny*, and took Chaise from the Passage to bring him back the next Morning to the Passage again. That in the Afternoon, whilst at *Abergavenny*, there fell a very heavy Snow; and, during the Conversation, he was lamenting, that it prevented him taking a walk up to see Mr. *Chapman*; for (added he) Mr. *Bishop*, at the *Christopher*, in *Wells*, sent a Cheddar Cheese to me for him; and I never heard that he received it. The Attorney then enquired what might be the price of Cheddar Cheese? The Answer was, he paid *Bishop* fifteen Shillings for that which he sent me.

This was sufficient for the Attorney to enter an Action in your Lordship's Court Baron: and a Declaration delivered the next Day after the Writ; but he thought proper to proceed no farther. It was at the time I was going this Journey to *Bristol*, that the said *Thomas Jenkins* and his Colleague assaulted me in the Town of *Ufk*.

In my first Letter to your Lordship's Steward, I mentioned half a Score of these Actions; and I can now acquaint your Lordship, they are at this Time multiplied to a Score.

My Lord, let me now acquaint your Lordship of some other Hardship's I have undergone from the practice of your Court

Court Baron. I speak as to my own Knowledge, relative to the Method constantly practised upon me ; which is, my Lord, to send the Writs to me, on the Morning on which the Court is opened ; and within an Hour of the Court being opened ; particularly, some have been sent up after the Court has been opened and shut again ; and the Gentleman who has appeared for me, has been obliged to apply for the opening of the Court. As my Attorney lives at *Monmouth*, a Distance of sixteen Miles, how is it possible, my Lord, in the nature of Things, to enter Appearances to such Writs, on such short Notice ? And I assure your Lordship, had it not been for the good nature of a Gentleman in *Abergavenny* (since dead) I must have suffered my Cattle, many times, to have been taken away, because it has not been in my Power to work Miracles.

Again, my Lord, in the Cause of a *Joseph Stanley*, mentioned to your Lordship's Steward, in my first Application to him, and afterwards to your Lordship, in desiring your Remark upon it. It is thus, my Lord. I was served by the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, from your Lordship's Court Baron, as from a *Joseph Stanley*, and which was removed by *Accedas ad Curiam*, in 1773 ; and the Charges thereof, your Lordship perceives, was five Pounds eleven Shillings and ten-pence. Again, on the 25th of *May* 1774, during my being in *London*, another Writ, by the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, and in the Name of the same *Joseph Stanley*, was sent up to my House, and an Appearance entered. And as your Lordship's Steward would not interfere (at my Kindsman's Intercession) with the Attorney, the Debt and Costs were paid by my Kindsman, to the Attorney *Thomas Jenkins* ; and the following Receipt was given for the same, by your Lordship's Recorder, Mr. *Henry Gabb*, the Lime-burner.

Mr. *Jenkins* received the within Debt and Costs, by the Hands of

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>Henry Gabb</i> , 15th <i>June</i> , 1774.	Debt	0	4 0
	Coils	0	16 6
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1	0 6

Likewise

Likewise, my Lord, in the Case of a *Richard Phillips* (to which I have before desired your Lordship's Attention) I was first served with a Writ from your said Court, by the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, and in the Name of *Richard Phillips*, on the 23d of March, 1774, and which was removed by *Accedas*, on the 15th of June. Yet, on the 6th of July, another Writ by the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, and in the Name of the said *Richard Phillips*, was sent to me; and this being the Day for the trial of *Thomas Price*, already mentioned, my Attorney was with me, and entered an Appearance, to prevent my Cattle being taken away.

The Receipts following will certainly convince your Lordship what Satisfaction I must have felt in a Trial of such a Nature; and where my own Reputation was the principal Object.

Received Jan 6, 1772, of *John Chapman*, three Pounds nine Shillings, for making two Wains, and in full of all Demands.

*Richard Phillips.*

l.	s.	d.	
2	5	0	Wains.
0	10	0	Naves.
0	14	0	Fellies.
<hr/>			
3	9	0	

Witness, *William Chapman.*

Again. Received July 13, 1772, of *John Chapman*, three Guineas and three Shillings, for making a Waggon and Dribbles, and in full of all Demands.

*Richard Phillips.*

l.	s.	d.
3	6	0

Witness, *William Chapman.*

This Evidence, surely, my Lord, is sufficient for any Court in the Kingdom; though I should be very sorry to hazard a Trial upon it, in the Court Baron of *Abergavenny*.

But, my Lord, what will your Lordship say to the following Affidavit?



## In the KING's BENCH,

BETWEEN

RICHARD PHILLIPS, Plaintiff.

and

JOHN CHAPMAN, Defendant.

*Richard Phillips*, of the Parish of *Abergavenny*, in the County of *Monmouth*, Wheelwright, the Plaintiff in this Cause, maketh Oath and saith, That the Defendant, *John Chapman*, about three Years ago, borrowed of this Deponent, two Sets of Spokes, for the Wheels of two Wains or Carts, and promised to let him have some others in their place or stead; when he, the said *John Chapman*, should fall some Timber for that Purpose: and that, about a Year ago, *Charles Osland*, of the Town of *Abergavenny*, Labourer, came to this Deponent, and told him, that *Thomas Jenkins*, of the Town of *Abergavenny*, Attorney at Law, and one of the Attornies of this Court, wanted to speak with him, this Deponent; and accordingly this Deponent went to the said *Thomas Jenkins*, who asked this Deponent, if the Defendant, *John Chapman*, owed him, this Deponent, any Money? When this Deponent told the said *Thomas Jenkins*, that he did not; but that he had lent him two sets of Spokes, which Mr. *Chapman* had not returned, because he could not get them hewed out. That then the said *Thomas Jenkins* told this Deponent, that if he would give Consent, he would sue the said *John Chapman*; and that he would carry the Law on at his, the said *Thomas Jenkins*'s own Expence; and, that it should not cost this Deponent any thing. And this Deponent has heard, that the said *Thomas Jenkins* brought an Action against the said *John Chapman*, at this Deponent's Suit, in the Hundred Court of *Abergavenny*: and that the said *John Chapman* caused the said Cause to be removed into this Court, by Writ of *Accedas ad Curiam*; and from the Time that the said Cause was so removed, he, this Deponent, never gave any Directions or Orders to the said *Thomas Jenkins*, for carrying on the said Cause in this Court. And this Deponent further saith, that he should not have brought any Action against the said *John Chapman* for the said Spokes, or any other Matter, Cause, or Thing whatsoever, had not  
the

the said *Thomas Jenkins* sent to this Deponent as aforesaid, and promised to carry on the said Cause at his, the said *Thomas Jenkins's* own Expence.

*Richard Phillips.*

Sworn at the Town of *Monmouth*,  
in the County of *Monmouth*, the  
1st Day of *Dec.* 1774, before me

*Aubry Barnes* (by Commission)

I have one other Case to acquaint your Lordship with, which is, that I have been served with two Writs at one and the same Time, from your Lordship's Court, both in one Name, and directed to me, one as *John Chapman*, Gent. and the other as *John Chapman*, Labourer; to both which Writs I was obliged to appear in your Lordship's Court; and afterwards to have two *Accedas's ad Curiam* for the purpose of removing them. At the same Time I was served with a third Writ, directed to me as *John Chapman*, Merchant, to which, likewise, I was obliged to appear in your Lordship's Court.

I will now acquaint your Lordship with some general Abuses, the knowledge of which, I can only say I received from Information. My Lord, let me remark, that from the Character of a *John Davies* alias *Gwipes*, your Lordship may frame some opinion of those employd by the same Attorney; there are four of them: and it is a Practice, on the Writs from your Lordship's Court being issued, to leave the Writ under any Door or Window, or even to put them into the Thatch of a House; and which, agreeable to the Practice of your Lordship's Court, is deemed a good Service. Indeed, my Lord, I think it is not. For, from an Omission of an Appearance, a *Distingas* is issued, and I remember *John Davies*, alias *Gwipes*, told me, as I was taking him to *Ush* Gaol, that the Evening preceeding my apprehending him, he and the other three, by means of such Services, had taken a Horse from one Man; a Cow from another; and a Fitch of Bacon from a poor Woman.

My Lord, I am informed, Writs from your Court Baron are issued and not entered; and that if Appearances are made, 'tis so; if not, they are entered, and a *Distingas* issued; and I am most credibly informed, that many a good Guinea has been taken by an Attorney in *Abergavenny*, for

nothing more than the issuing a Writ from your Lordship's Court Baron. And oftentimes, my Lord, a Writ—— is sent to one Attorney, and an Appearance entered by another; though Plaintiff and Defendant are as much Strangers to the Action, as the Attornies are to common Honesty.

I am told, that your Lordship's present Steward, *William Morgan*, Esq. is an Attorney; that your Lordship's late Steward, his own Brother, was an Attorney; and that *Thomas Jenkins*, now an Attorney, did live with him many Years: in whose Service his shining Abilities first exemplified on the Surface of his Master's Shoes and Boots; from which Period, being assisted by the unwearied Instructions of a tender Parent, who is a Bailiff's Follower, now living at *Pontypool*, in this County, He has made a most surprizing Progress in Life; and to the Astonishment of all, when not more than two and forty Years of Age, was admitted an Attorney of the Court of *King's Bench*, and became an able Practitioner in your Lordship's Court Baron of *Abergavenny*.

My Lord, that your Lordship may have the most perfect Knowledge concerning this Attorney, as far as lies in my Power to afford, he (as I before had informed your Lordship's Steward) signs himself *Thomas Jenkins*; yet, by many People, is much better known by the Name of *Thomas Jenkins Ap Rees*; and, by the Generality, agreeably to the Idiom of this County, by the Name of *Thomas Jenkins Ap Catchpole*.—— Thus far, my Lord, is Information.

I think, my Lord, as my Attorney's Exceptions to appear in your Lordship's Court Baron, arose entirely from Principle, it is highly incumbent on me, to give your Lordship his Name and Place of Residence; but it is first proper to acquaint your Lordship, that in the Course of these Struggles, besides the Obligations I was under for the friendly Offices of a Gentleman living in *Abergavenny* (since deceased) I have likewise employed Mr. *Thomas Williams*, of *Abergavenny*; and Messrs. *George* and *William Catchmayd*, of *Mormouth*; yet none of these are the Attorney alluded to. The Person I mean, in the very first Instance of Employment by me, entered an Appearance for me, in the County Court, on the 8th of March, 1774, towards a Redemption of my Cattle; and he being recommended to me as an honest Man, I am here under the Necessity of begging your  
Lordship's

Lordship's Pardon for the Digression; in taking the Opportunity of returning my most sincere Thanks to my Friends, for that Recommendation; assuring your Lordship at the same Time, that He is not only an honest Man, but a Gentleman: his Name is *James Bowen*, and lives in the Town of *Monmouth*. This is the Person I speak of, as my Attorney.

The last Robbery, I mentioned to your Lordship, that I suffered from your Lordship's Court Baron, was on the 17th of *August*, 1774, since which the Attorney *Thomas Jenkins*, has given me Time to breathe: and I have taken the Opportunity accordingly to acquaint your Lordship, that I have collected an Account of the different Sums which I have paid, and which Expence has been entirely owing to the Activity of the Attorney, *Thomas Jenkins*, notwithstanding his very gross habit of Body; arising, *ab origine*, from the Consequences of the injurious Practices in the Court Baron of *Abergavenny*.

My Lord, I can produce Vouchers for the Payment of One Hundred and Seventy-three Pounds Thirteen Shillings and Five Pence. A Sum, your Lordship will surely allow, much too large to be taken away; and taken by such Means, that in Truth, cannot even be called the Shadow of the Law.

In this Account, my Lord, I have made no Charge of several Journeys to London, Expresses from Necessity, and Journeys without Number round the Country.

What Recompence, my Lord, can be made to a Man, who at the same time his Property is thus taken away from him, is insulted, abused, and the very Means thus taken of plundering him, is made the very Argument of his being a bad Man? What Satisfaction for the Distress, the Trouble, and the Fatigue, these Actions have occasioned? Yes, my Lord, I have one Satisfaction. I here solemnly protest, I have never been lawfully served with any Writ, from your Lordship's Court Baron of *Abergavenny*, for any just Debt, or Demand due to any one; nor for any real Assault, breach of the Peace, or Offence whatever; and I am ready, in your Lordship's Presence, to receive the Sacrament on the Truth hereof.

My Lord, I have resided within your Lordship's Hundred of *Abergavenny*, near four Years; in which Time I have

have expended upwards of Fifteen Hundred Pounds, on a small Spot of Fourscore Pounds a Year. And in Consequence I must have employed a great Number of labouring People. I have likewise sent two Cargoes of Wheat and Flour from *London*, for the Consumption of the poor Inhabitants of those parts. In one of which, I was a considerable Sufferer by the Weather, at Sea: and no longer than last *Midsummer*, I assure your Lordship, when Wheat was sold at Twelve Shillings per Bushel, and expected to be still higher, I sold, by the Common Crier, in *Abergavenny* Market, Two Hundred Bushels of Wheat, of my own growth, at Half-a-Guinea per Bushel, in small Quantities, to the poor. In this Account your Lordship's Ear is not abused.

My Lord, I was designed by my Friends to the Service of the Church. Fortune made me a Farmer. But a certain Person, willing to do more for me than either Friends or Fortune, endeavoured to prove me a Highwayman.

On this consideration, my Lord (exclusive of the Sanction given to these injurious Practices against me) I do no longer hold that Person either as a Gentleman, or a Neighbour. Yet, deficient as he is, in the Accomplishments of the one, and so totally destitute of the Feelings of the other, he is the better qualified to be the Inquisitor General of the Court Baron of *Abergavenny*.

My Lord, I submit a Perusal of the Contents to your Lordship for Relief.

And I am,

MY LORD,

Your LORDSHIP'S

most humble Servant,

JOHN CHAPMAN.

*Werndee, Monmouthshire,  
Saint David's Day, 1775.*

